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Eradication of poverty and other development issues: women in development

Advancement of women

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Letter dated 7 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you information regarding the status of women in the Republic of Uzbekistan (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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Annex to the letter dated 7 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Status of women

In recent years in Uzbekistan a national mechanism has been established at the level of the legislative and executive branches of government to enhance the status and improve the situation of women, laying the foundation for the favourable development of the women's movement and the full realization of women's potential.

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan has been active since 1991. It is the most authoritative and the largest women's organization in the Republic, with over 3 million group and individual members.

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan performs a coordinating role in the implementation of State policy to enhance the situation of women, improve the role and status of women in society and the family and improve legal protection of their social, economic and spiritual interests.

The Committee is involved in training a reserve of women community volunteers, giving women access to active employment and analysing the situation of women, the extent of their participation in the socio-economic development of society, women's working conditions, the moral climate in the family and also the degree to which women enjoy social protection in enterprises, institutions and organizations, regardless of form of ownership or affiliation with government agencies. The Committee provides legal, psychological, material and moral support, and much more, to women who need it.

There are 21 elected women deputies in the Legislative Chamber of Parliament, which is equal to 17.5 per cent of the total number of deputies. Participation by women in civic and political activity is one of the most important levers for achieving equal rights.

In 1995, the post of deputy prime minister for social protection of the family, mothers and children was created.

The establishment of women's non-governmental organizations represented an important stage in the evolution of the women's movement in Uzbekistan. The partnership between the State and non-governmental sectors has led to increased coherence in the way that various questions relating to women's issues are framed and addressed. Recently, women's non-governmental organizations in the Republic have joined together in a coalition called Mekhr (Concern) and are in speaking with one voice in the international women's movement.

Much attention is being paid to strengthening international ties and integrating the women's movement of the Republic into the international movement. Representatives of the Women's Committee and women's non-governmental organizations are active participants in many international meetings and symposiums. The women's movement works actively with the United Nations and its agencies and with other international organizations accredited in Uzbekistan.

Focused work is under way in Uzbekistan to implement the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform and Plan of Action, the Millennium Development Goals and other international instruments on the rights and interests of women.

At the beginning of 2006, there were over 80 legislative acts in Uzbekistan with a direct bearing on the protection of women's rights and freedoms.

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, in tandem with the Office of the Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights (Ombudsman) (Oliy Majlis), has established a group to monitor implementation of international and national women's rights instruments.

The Women's Committee has developed a draft law on protection of reproductive health and reproductive rights for the people of Uzbekistan.

A National Plan of Action has been developed and is being put into effect to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women based on the outcome of consideration of Uzbekistan's report to the Committee.

In 2004, Uzbekistan submitted its second report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The National Platform and Plan of Action to improve the situation of women and enhance their role in society are being implemented in the Republic.